

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23, as follows:

Soluble camptothecin prodrugs are disclosed in United States patent US 4,943,579, published on 24.07.1990, which provides esters in position 20 of camptothecins with amino acids directly bound to the hydroxyl of the lactone ring. As discussed in this reference, the problem of making camptothecin and its hydrosoluble derivatives is rendered more difficult by the fact that it is not possible to alter the lactone ring without a loss of therapeutic activity. At the same time, there is, in any event, the problem of reducing the typical toxicity of the camptothecins, particularly at intestinal level. ~~WO 97/21865~~ WO 97/28165, The Stehlin Foundation, published on 07.08.1997, provides canaptothecin prodrugs for the purposes of prolonging the stability of the lactone ring, which is hydrolysed *in vivo*, giving rise to an inactive toxic metabolite. To this end, the hydroxy group of the lactone ring is esterified with carboxylic acids of varying length, optionally bearing an epoxide group in the chain. The compounds described in this reference are more liposoluble and are therefore going in a different direction as compared to the present invention. *Conover C.D., et al., Anti-Cancer Drug Design (1999), 14, 499-506* describe a camptothecin-polyethylene glycol hydrosoluble macromolecular transport system, in which various spacers of an amino acid nature affect its pharmacokinetic and anticancer activity characteristics. WO 00/08033, The University of Kansas, published on 17.02.2000, describes hydrosoluble prodrugs with a sterically hindered hydroxy group, which is esterified with a phosphono-oxymethyl group. *Singer J. W., et al., Journal of Controlled Release, 74 (2001), 248-247*, describe hydrosoluble conjugates of camptothecin with polyglutamic acid-glycine. *Matsumoto H., et al., Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters 11 (2001), 605-609* describe hydrosoluble prodrugs of an HIV virus protease inhibitor (molecule of a dipeptide nature,

differing enormously from the molecular structure of camptothecin) and to that end functionalise a hydroxyl group with a portion formed by a spacer part and a solubilising part. The spacer part is provided by a bicarboxylic acid, whereas the solubilising part is provided by a diamine. WO 01/09139, The Steblin Foundation, published on 08.02.2001, describes aryl esters of camptothecin in position 20, but does not address the problem of hydrosolubility, but rather that of the toxicity and prolonged stability of the lactone ring.